

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 19 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1, 7, 10 and 17 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention.

In the Notice of Allowability of November 26, 2003, claims 1 - 19 were found to be allowable over the prior art. Applicants have amended the claims to clarify and more accurately recite the claimed invention. With respect to independent claims 1 and 7, Applicants have only changed the term "predicted" to "prediction." This change does not affect the scope of the claims, and so claims 1 and 7 (as well as their dependent claims, 2-6 and 8-9, respectively) remain in condition for allowance.

With respect to independent claims 10 and 17, the claims as allowed were not technically accurate. Accordingly, these claims have been corrected. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not affect the novelty of the respective claims. Therefore, claims 10 and 17 (as well as their dependent claims, 11-16 and 18-19, respectively) are also in condition for allowance.

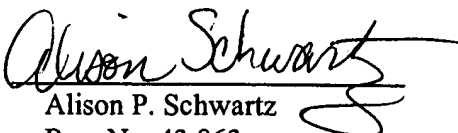
CONCLUSION

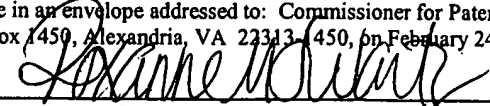
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1 - 19 are patentable. It is, therefore, submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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